

Research Opportunity

Call for Letters of Intent

Deadline: December 8, 2021



The University of Alaska Coastal Marine Institute (CMI) was established by a Memorandum of Agreement between the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM) and the University of Alaska. BOEM oversees the exploration and development of the nation's offshore energy resources. Through their Environmental Studies Program, BOEM supports scientific studies to inform responsible energy and marine mineral resources management on the U.S. Outer Continental Shelf (OCS). The CMI partnership strengthens BOEM-State cooperation in addressing common information needs. CMI projects engage highly qualified Alaskan researchers to investigate OCS-related environmental and resource issues and to collect and disseminate environmental information needed for OCS resource management decisions.

The purpose of the call for LOI is to identify project concepts for inclusion in the Coastal Marine Institute's 2022 proposed research programming, which will support up to \$750,000 in new awards funded through a subsequent Notice of Funding Opportunity. LOI will be reviewed by the CMI Technical Steering Committee and BOEM for the quality and usefulness of the identified research concept and their relevance to the Key Topics of Interest and the CMI Framework Areas. Budget justification, methodological approach, student participation, and community involvement/outreach will also be considered.

Eligibility

Research projects funded through the CMI must have a University of Alaska faculty or staff member as Principal Investigator. However, CMI welcomes projects that include collaboration with state and local stakeholders and other scientific researchers and organizations. Student involvement is encouraged.

Geographic Regions of Interest

The geographic area of interest for new research includes the Alaska OCS Region, with a strong emphasis on the State and Federal oil and gas lease areas in the Beaufort Sea and Cook Inlet. Other areas of focus include the Chukchi and Bering Seas. Projects outside of the Alaska Region may be considered if applicable to CMI priorities.

Key Topics of Interest

- Studies that evaluate recent ecosystem changes, including alterations in the biological and physical environments off Alaska;
- Studies to improve Arctic maritime oil spill modeling, including all aspects of ocean modeling, oil transport algorithms, oil behavior in ice, model uncertainties, Indigenous knowledge, etc.;
- Projects that examine pipeline gas releases, including modeling of event scenarios and potential impacts;
- Projects that evaluate potential effects of increased shipping and vessel traffic (e.g., whale strikes, noise, interruptions to subsistence activities, etc.);

- Projects that examine baseline health conditions in communities potentially affected by energy development activities in the Cook Inlet region; and
- Projects that support ongoing collaborative efforts for coastal mapping/mapping the seafloor.

CMI Framework Areas

Project concepts should be relevant to the OCS offshore energy and marine minerals program and should inform resource management decisions and scientific understanding of the potential environmental and socio-economic effects of development activities. Within this context, LOI should address one or more of the following CMI Framework Areas:

- Scientific studies for better understanding of marine, coastal, or human environments affected or potentially affected by oil and gas exploration and extraction or renewable energy development on the OCS;
- Modeling studies of environmental, social, economic, or cultural processes related to OCS oil and gas or renewable energy activities to improve scientific predictive capabilities;
- Experimental studies for better understanding of environmental processes or the effects of OCS activities;
- Projects that improve collection or sharing of data or scientific information regarding marine or coastal resources or human activities to support prudent management of oil and gas resources; and
- Synthesis studies of scientific environmental or socio-economic information relevant to the OCS oil and gas and renewable energy program, including workshops and literature syntheses.

Required Content

1. Cover page with required content
2. Narrative with required content (maximum 3 pages)
3. Estimated budget with justification and potential cost-share sources (maximum 3 pages)
4. Single-page resume for Principal Investigator

1. Required Cover Page Content

- a. Preliminary Title, Principal Investigator and Co-PI names/affiliations
- b. Cost Estimates: Include Total Project Estimate, Funding Request, Anticipated cost-share participants and their associated contributions
- c. Project Duration
- d. Signatures

2. Required Narrative Content (3-page maximum with a minimum 11-point font and 1-inch margins)

- a. Project Concept: Describe the project concept emphasizing the question/problem to be addressed.
- b. Relevance: Describe the type of information that the project will produce and its relevance to the Key Topics of Interest and the CMI Framework Areas.
- c. Methods: Identify general methods to be used in analysis and sampling design.
- d. Student Support: Describe anticipated student involvement/support.
- e. Outreach: Describe likely outreach activities.

3. Budget (3-page maximum)

While the LOI process is intended to stimulate research ideas and does not represent a budget commitment of any kind, estimates should nevertheless be scientifically justified and as accurate as possible to assess viability within CMI funding limitations. Budget formats are flexible; however, submissions should include sufficient detail to identify costs aligned with the project narrative. CMI awards are limited to \$200K per project year and \$400K per project (not including cost-share). **CMI project awards require 1:1 cost-share**, and LOI should identify likely non-federal sources of cost-share and in-kind contributions. Projects should start between **August 1 and September 30, 2022**.

4. Signatures

CMI requires signatures of the Principal Investigator and their unit Dean/Director (or representative). LOI will be used to develop research programming and are not proposals or referenced in final awards.

Processing Schedule

Investigators will be notified in mid-January 2022 whether their study concept will be included in the subsequent Notice of Funding Opportunity.

Questions and Submission

Questions regarding this opportunity can be directed to Ruth Post, CMI Program Manager, at rmpost@alaska.edu. You are also encouraged to contact colleagues in the BOEM Alaska Region office to discuss project ideas. Heather Crowley (heather.crowley@boem.gov) can advise on appropriate BOEM advisors for your discipline. Please submit LOI to rmpost@alaska.edu as a **single PDF file** by **5:00 PM, Wednesday, December 8, 2021**.